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C O N F I D E N T I A L ANKARA 001346

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/NGA, EUR/SE AND EB

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/05/2014

TAGS: [EPET](#) [ENRG](#) [PREL](#) [TU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: BOTAS SAYS SIX MILLION BARRELS OF IRAQI OIL NOW AT
CEYHAN

REF: ANKARA 1019

(U) Classified by EconCounselor Scot Marciel. Reason:
1.4(b,d)

(C) BOTAS General Manager Mehmet Bilgic confirmed to us March 5 that Iraq's North Oil Company had been pumping oil through the Kirkuk-Yumurtalik pipeline since February 18. Although the volumes were still small, Bilgic called the flow "slow progress in the right direction." He said there are now six million barrels in Ceyhan's oil storage facilities, which have a capacity of 9-10 million barrels. Bilgic said there would be no announcements or press leaks out of BOTAS,
EDELMAN